

**NEWS
RELEASE**

June 17, 2011

CITY OF PADUCAH, KY



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Barkley Regional Airport Featured on *Quality of Life*

PADUCAH, KY—In February 2010, Barkley Regional Airport was proud to begin offering United Express regional jet service provided by SkyWest. In this episode of *Quality of Life*, Mayor Bill Paxton talks with Barkley Regional Airport Manager Richard Roof and Director of Marketing Jackie Jones about the past year with SkyWest and the importance of the airport to the Paducah-McCracken County economy. *Quality of Life* can be seen on Government 11, the governmental access channel of the City of Paducah, and online at www.paducahky.gov.

With the change to United Express, Barkley Regional moved from offering 33-seat propeller planes to 50-seat jets with service to Chicago. Jones says, “When you leave Paducah and reach that connection in Chicago, you can make 130 domestic destinations and 30 international.” Jones adds that 10 percent of Paducah’s inbound and outbound passengers have international itineraries. Roof says that Chicago is a growing hub as compared to other hubs such as St. Louis and Memphis that are on the decline. According to Roof, “It’s really critical for us, as well as the other regional airports in our vicinity, to be able to maintain good hub service because that’s where the connection will be.”

In a recent analysis, Barkley Regional Airport was found to provide a \$43.4 million impact to the Paducah-McCracken County economy. Jones says, “Most people think of two flights a day from Barkley, but it’s much, much more. Over 150 people are employed either directly or indirectly because of the airport.” Roof adds, “We’re seeing an increase in the number of aircraft based there. Even as we begin to come out of a difficult economic period for the region and nation, we are beginning to see increased activity.”

In this episode of *Quality of Life*, viewers also will learn about the various ways Barkley Regional Airport reaches out to the community and demonstrates the welcoming spirit of Paducah-McCracken County to visitors. Furthermore, the structure of the airport from its 10-member board to the 16 additional organizations that are on the grounds is outlined.



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Quality of Life: Barkley Regional Airport can be viewed on Government Channel 11 starting Monday, June 20 at 9:00 a.m. It also airs Wednesday, June 22 at 4:30 p.m.; Friday, June 24 at 8:30 p.m.; and Saturday, June 25 at 9:30 a.m.

Government 11 program information, videos, news releases, and schedules are available at www.paducahky.gov. For more information about *Quality of Life* and other Government 11 programming, call Tom Butler, WKCTC Television Production Coordinator, at 534-3208 or Pam Spencer, City of Paducah Public Information Officer, at 444-8669.

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